

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claims 7, 11, 12 and 30. Add new Claims 35-39. Claims are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underline for added matter. A complete listing of the claims, with proper claim identifiers, is set forth below.

1.-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A catheter and stylet assembly, comprising:

- a) a catheter tube sub-assembly including a small diameter, very flexible plastic enteral feeding catheter tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said tube having a connector on its proximal end; and
- b) a first stylet sub-assembly including a primary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said first stylet sub-assembly also including a first stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said primary stylet is seated; and
- c) a second stylet sub-assembly including a secondary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said secondary stylet sub-assembly also including a second stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said secondary stylet is seated;
- d) said first stylet fitting being releasably seated in said connector with said primary stylet extending into said tube and said secondary stylet fitting being releasably connected to said first stylet fitting with said secondary stylet extending into said first stylet fitting; ~~and said tube.~~
- e) said primary and secondary flexible stylets each being extendable through said flexible tube and movable, relatively to each other, through said tube to selectively vary the effective stiffness of the tube over its leading distal end.

8. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 7 further characterized in that:

- a) said second stylet sub-assembly further including a sleeve fitting which releasably connects said first stylet fitting to said second stylet fitting.

9. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 7 further characterized in that:

a) said secondary stylet has a visible mark formed on it approximately 12 inches from said second stylet fitting.

10. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 7 further characterized in that:

a) said catheter tube sub-assembly includes an enteral feeding catheter tube containing two lumens, said primary and secondary stylets extending through only one of said two lumens.

11. (Currently Amended) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim ~~7~~10 further characterized in that:

a) said ~~enteral feeding catheter tube sub-assembly includes~~ is a single lumen, ~~85~~ Fr size tube having a bullet nose bolus on its distal end.

12. (Currently Amended) A catheter and stylet assembly, comprising:

a) a catheter tube assembly including ~~a unitary flexible plastic,~~ a unitary very flexible plastic, 8 Fr enteral feeding catheter tube containing two lumens and a smaller diameter enteral feeding catheter tube containing a single lumen;

b) said 8 Fr tube and said smaller diameter tube being connected by a unitary bolus formed independently of said 8 Fr tube and said smaller diameter tube and having a side port;

c) said 8 Fr enteral feeding catheter tube having a proximal and a distal end, said proximal end having a connector on its proximal end; and

d) said smaller diameter enteral feeding catheter tube containing a single lumen formed separately from said two lumen tube; and

e) a first stylet sub-assembly including a primary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said first stylet sub-assembly also including a first stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said primary stylet is seated; and

f) a second stylet sub-assembly including a secondary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said secondary stylet sub-assembly also including a second stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said secondary stylet is seated;

g) said first stylet fitting being releasably seated in said connector with said primary stylet extending into said two lumen tube and said secondary stylet fitting being releasably connected to said first stylet fitting with said secondary stylet extending into said two lumen tube [.] one of said two lumens in said 8 Fr tube and the single lumen in said smaller tube;

h) said primary and secondary stylets each being extendable through said flexible tubes and movable relative to each other through said tubes to selectively vary the effective stiffness of the tubes.

13. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 12 further characterized in that:

a) said single lumen enteral feeding catheter tube is a 5 or 6 Fr size tube.

14. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 12 further characterized in that:

a) said catheter tube is coated inside and out adjacent said bolus with a water soluble lubricant.

15.-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) An enteral feeding catheter and stylet assembly for naso-gastric insertion of the catheter into a patient; comprising:

a) a catheter tube sub-assembly including a very flexible plastic enteral feeding catheter tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said tube having a feeding connector on its proximal end;

b) a first stylet sub-assembly including a primary flexible twisted wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said first stylet sub-assembly also including a first stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said primary stylet is seated; and

c) a second stylet sub-assembly including a secondary flexible twisted wire stylet having distal and proximal ends, said secondary stylet sub-assembly also including a second stylet fitting in which the proximal end of said secondary stylet is seated;

d) said first stylet fitting being seated in said connector with said primary stylet extending into said tube and said secondary stylet fitting being connected to said first stylet fitting with said secondary stylet extending into said tube through said first stylet fitting;

e) said primary and secondary flexible stylets each being extendable through said flexible tube and movable relatively to each other through said tube to selectively vary the effective stiffness of the assembled tube adjacent its distal end.

31. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 30 further characterized in that:

a) said second stylet sub-assembly further includes a sleeve fitting which connects said first stylet fitting to said second stylet fitting; and

b) said second stylet also extends through said sleeve fitting.

32. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 31 further characterized in that:

a) said secondary stylet has a visible mark formed on it approximately 12 inches from said secondary stylet connector.

33. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 31 further characterized in that:

a) said catheter tube is a single lumen, 8 Fr size tube having a bullet nose bolus on its distal end.

34. (Previously Presented) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 33 further characterized in that:

a) said catheter tube is coated inside and out with a water soluble lubricant adjacent said bolus.

35. (New) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 7 further characterized in that each of said wire stylets comprises a twisted wire stylet.

36. (New) A catheter assembly, comprising:

a) a catheter tube sub-assembly including a small diameter, very flexible enteral feeding catheter tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said tube having a connector on its proximal end; and

b) a stylet sub-assembly including a flexible, twisted wire stylet having distal and proximal ends; and

c) an elongated, flexible wire having distal and proximal ends;

d) said twisted shape wire stylet extending through said tube parallel to said flexible wire which also extends through said tube;

e) said stylet being separately movable through said tube parallel to said flexible wire to selectively vary the effective flexibility of the assembled tube, stylet and wire.

37. (New) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 36 further characterized in that:

a) said flexible tube includes a coiled tube section which is adjacent said tube distal end;

b) said flexible wire extending through said coiled tube section whereby said coiled tube section is uncoiled.

38. (New) The catheter and stylet assembly of Claim 11 further characterized in that:

a) said enteral feeding catheter tube is approximately at least 60 inches long whereby said bolus will be positioned in the patient's jejunum when said tube is fully extended in a patient during enteral feeding.

39. (New) A catheter and stylet assembly, comprising:

a) a catheter tube sub-assembly including a small diameter, very flexible enteral feeding catheter tube having a distal end and a proximal end; and

b) a first stylet sub-assembly including a primary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends; and

c) a second stylet sub-assembly including a secondary flexible wire stylet having distal and proximal ends;

d) said primary and secondary flexible stylets each being extendable through said flexible tube and movable relatively to each other through said tube to selectively vary the stiffness of the assembled tube and stylets in different portions of the tube.